GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
BIO-DIVERSITY ACT,2002
Borkataky Shri Narayan Chandra;Kurup Adv. Suresh;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some apprehensions have been expressed about the effectiveness of the provisions of Bio-Diversity Act, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; (

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the present Act:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote/protect Bio-Diversity and traditional knowledge?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A group of scientists from Kerala Agricultural University; Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bangalore; and Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, through their two publications have expressed some apprehensions that the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 may curtail the scientific freedom on free exchange of specimens for taxonomic research in India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to which India is a Party, brought about a shift from the earlier concept of common heritage to sovereign rights over the country's biological resources. Pursuant to the CBD, India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to interalia, address the concerns relating to instances of biopiracy and misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.The Act provides for prior approval of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) before sending any biological material outside the country for research or for commercial use, or for biosurvey and bio-utilisation.The intent of the Act is not to hamper basic taxonomic research while at the same time ensuring that the people get benefits from any commercial use of the accessed genetic material and associated traditional knowledge.